

Stock Assessment Improvement Plan (SAIP) Background

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History of Protected Resources SAIP Development

- Marine Fisheries SAIP in October 2001
- PR SAIP initiated at October 2001 ARA/PRD meeting (at suggestion of Donna Wieting)
 - Meetings in 2002-2003 to refine concept
 - Workshop in Woods Hole in September 2003
 - SAIP/Requirements Plan published in September 2004

SAIP Goals

- Develop national strategies, with regional subtexts, for achieving MMPA and ESA mandates for PR
- Develop plan for meeting protected species data needs of partners
- Develop a requirements plan for funding requests through PPBES

SAIP Structure

- ***Tier I – Improve Stock Assessments Using Existing Data Collection Resources:***
 - Status quo with no new assessment efforts.
- ***Tier II – Elevate Stock Assessments to New National Standards of Excellence:***
 - The quality of all stock assessments should achieve a level commensurate with ESA and MMPA mandates.
- ***Tier III - Next Generation Assessments:***
 - Collection of detailed data on ecology, habitat, behavior, and health of “Ecosystem Indicator Species” to provide a better understanding of how marine mammals and marine turtles function within their respective ecosystems
 - Ecosystem-based approach to assessments

Developing Tier III Plan

- Since developing the Tier I-II plan, have institutionalized in NMFS budget requests
- Requirements for Tier III remained largely unknown in 2004.
- To develop the Tier III plan needed to:
 - Have NMFS mature its concept of EAM
 - Then meet in workshop format to brainstorm
 - From there move on to developing a requirements plan

Tier III Workshop

- NMFS has made progress on defining EAM
 - Charleston workshop (2004)
 - Key Largo workshop (2005)
- For PR now need to focus on defining:
 - What “Tier III” is, and
 - What “Ecosystem Approaches to Management” are
- As you are already aware, we are already doing EAM (in bits and pieces), but now seek to develop a consistent national strategy
- Don’t need final answer now—but guidance for next steps

Tier III Workshop Questions

- How do Protected Species fit into NOAA's EAM aka "Ecosystem Studies with A Protected Species Component" (*subtext-does this help us better understand anthropogenic impacts*)?
- What should a national strategy for "Protected Species Studies with An Ecosystem Component" be (*subtext-does this focus improve chances of species recovery*)?
- Can we develop an ecosystem approach for protected species stock assessments (*subtext-does this improve the assessments*)?
- How should NOAA deal with the governance issues related to EAM for protected species?